

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

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S E C R E T OSLO 3795

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP NO NATO

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN FORCES FOR NATO

REFS: (A) USNATO 4751 (B) USNATO 4162 (C) OSLO 3727 (NOTAL)

(D) OSLO 3718 (NOTAL) (E) NATO 4848

1. EMBASSY GENERALLY CONCURS WITH EXCELLENT USNATO REVIEW OF NORWEGIAN RESPONSE TO DPQ-73 (REF B). NORWEGIAN PRESENTATION REFLECTS OUR UNDERSTANDING OF NORWAY'S DEFENSE POLICY, AND WE HAVE ONLY MINOR COMMENTS, IN PARAGRAPHS 4-6 BELOW, TO SUPPLEMENT USNATO'S ANALYSIS.

2. WE ALSO CONCUR IN PROPOSED USNATO POSITION FOR OCTOBER 16 MULTILATERAL REVIEW SESSION, INCLUDING ENCOURAGEMENT FOR NORWAY TO MAKE A GREATER INCREASE IN DEFENSE SPENDING IN REAL TERMS (PARA 4, REF B). WE OF COURSE NEED TO CONTINUE TO URGE OUR ALLIES TO DO MORE, BUT WE HAVE DOUBTS

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THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE MUCH HEADWAY WITH THE NORWE-

GIANS. OSLO 3727 DESCRIBES THE SITUATION THE NEW MINORITY GOVERNMENT WILL BE FACING VIS-A-VIS THE FAR LEFT, AND FUTURE PRIME MINISTER BRATTELI HAS INDICATED TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT HIS ABILITY TO HOLD THE LINE COMPLETELY IN THE FACE OF SOCIALIST ELECTORAL LEAGUE PRESSURES FOR REDUCTIONS IN THE DEFENSE BUDGET.

3. AS FOR PRESENT BUDGETARY STATUS, THE OUTGOING GOVERNMENT PRESENTED BOTH THE 1974 BUDGET AND A FIVE-YEAR DEFENSE PLAN TO THE STORTING OCTOBER 11. AS WE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN INFORMED (OSLO 3718), THE LONG-RANGE PLAN PROVIDES FOR A 1 PERCENT INCREASE THIS COMING YEAR AND APPROXIMATELY 2.25 PERCENT FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING FOUR YEARS. THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC TABLES PROVIDED BY NORWAY TO NATO AS WELL AS OUR PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF THE NORWEGIAN BUDGET FOR 1974 INDICATE AN ESTIMATED 7.6 PERCENT INCREASE IN DEFENSE SPENDING IN CURRENT PRICES OR, ADJUSTING FOR THE INFLATION FACTOR, A 1.1 PERCENT INCREASE IN REAL TERMS. THIS SHOWS NO CHANGE FROM THE 1.1 PERCENT INCREASE IN 1972 (8.7 PERCENT INCREASE IN APPROPRIATIONS LESS A 7.6 INCREASE IN CONSUMER PRICE INDEX).

4. AS HIGHLIGHTED IN USNATO 4162, SOME NAVAL MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS APPEAR TO BE EXPERIENCING DELAY. FOR EXAMPLE, THE INSTALLATION OF SEA SPARROW SAM SYSTEM AND PENGUIN SSM SYSTEM IN THE FIVE OSLO CLASS FRIGATES WAS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION BY THE END OF 1975 (SEE 1972 RESPONSE TO DPQ), BUT NOW IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN 1977. ALSO, THE BACKFIT OF THE PENGUIN SSM SYSTEM INTO THE STORM CLASS GUNBOATS WAS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN 1973 (SEE 1972 RESPONSE TO DPQ); NOW IT APPEARS THAT LAUNCHERS WILL BE INSTALLED, BUT THAT MISSILES AND OTHER COMPONENTS OF THE INSTALLATIONS ARE BEHIND SCHEDULE AND "CANNOT BE COMPLETED BEFORE 1974-75".

5. RE LOW LEVEL AIR DEFENSE, THE 4 BATTERIES OF LOW LEVEL SAM WILL PROBABLY BE THE CROTALE SYSTEM ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT BELIEVE CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. DELIVERY OF THE SYSTEM IS UNLIKELY BEFORE THE END OF 1975. FUROR IN THE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT THIS PAST JUNE OVER CROTALE

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AS IT RELATED TO NORWAY'S NEGOTIATION FOR A FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE EC HAS UNDOUBTEDLY DELAYED CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS.

6. THE LOWERING OF THE RETIREMENT AGE DESCRIBED IN FORCE SECTIONS WILL CERTAINLY HAVE A BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON PROMOTION POSSIBILITIES FOR YOUNGER OFFICERS--ONE OF THE LARGER PROBLEM AREAS IN THE NORWEGIAN SERVICES. UNFORTUNATELY,

BECAUSE OF THE WORDING OF THE NEW LAW, THE EFFECT MAY
NOT BE SEEN FOR APPROXIMATELY TEN YEARS WHEN THE ALLOWABLE
GRACE PERIOD FOR OLDER OFFICERS IS COMPLETED. BYRNE

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